

Our Doctors



Hospitalist Dr. Katherine Chretien in an inpatient hospital room with medical residents in the background.

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Hospital medicine: it's a fairly new medical specialty. Unlike some of their colleagues who work in outpatient clinics, the hospitalist's main office is the patient's hospital bedside. It's a demanding field; hospitalists work around the clock, seven days a week, seeing the most complicated and serious illnesses and caring for those in their most vulnerable states. Hospital medicine never stops.

Training the next generation of doctors ensures that the Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center will have the best physicians to meet the needs of Veterans for years to come. According to Hospitalist Dr. Katherine Chretien, "The Washington DC VA Medical Center has attracted extremely bright, talented, and compassionate hospital physicians who have trained in some of the best hospital systems and medical schools."

Dr. Chretien, who initially planned to do primary care internal medicine because she loved developing longer term and meaningful relationships with her patients, changed her path during residency to stay in the inpatient setting.

"I realized how much I thrived working and teaching in teams on the inpatient wards. I also realized how important the role of an inpatient hospital physician is in helping patients at very vulnerable times during serious illness, and being able to make that experience as good as possible for them."

No two days are alike for a hospitalist at the Washington DC VA Medical Center. With her clinical, administrative and educational roles, Dr. Chretien's days are full and rewarding.

“The best part of my work is my service to the country and giving back to those who served. My colleagues and I are devoted to patient care, contributing to medical science, and doing the right thing for patients. I also really enjoy teaching medical students and physicians in training about Veterans’ care and making sure they understand a patient’s service history and the person behind the illness.”